

Is the Detroit International Bridge Company really serious about building a second span?

Only Days Away?

- In an April 28, 2010 interview with *MIRS News*, Detroit International Bridge Company President Dan Stamper said the Ambassador Bridge is close to final Canadian approval of plans to build a second span to replace the now 82-year-old original span. They expect a determination by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) in the coming days that the existing plaza will serve the needs of the bridge for the next 25 years and that once that happens, the Canadian government will release its environmental permit.
- In a July 2010 issue of the *Wall Street Journal* Matthew Moroun stated, “we are now 80% of the way there. The best case, we would get the permit sometime this year. Worse case, we would have to wait until next year.”

(The Ambassador Bridge’s application was not even being considered when these statements were made. In 2008, the Canadian Government had notified them that their application was insufficient. They did not resubmit the application until March 2011.)

What About the U.S. Permits?

- The U.S. Coast Guard handles the permitting process for the Michigan side of the Bridge. In 2006 the DBIC submitted an application. The Coast Guard began processing it in good faith based on a promise from DBIC that they would be able to control a city park needed for construction and for approval.
- In 2009, after 3.5 years, their application was returned by the Coast Guard, saying, “...the Coast Guard’s conclusion that the DBIC is not likely to obtain property rights in the near future.” The DBIC will have to resubmit their application and start over. The City of Detroit says they have no intention of conveying ownership of the property to the DBIC.

When Will It Be Built?

- On May 5, 2011, Matthew Moroun told *The Detroit News* “Once we receive the go-ahead, I would like to wait until traffic volumes justified building a new bridge,” Moroun said. “That could take could take three or four years or even up to a decade.”
- At the Senate hearing on June 6, 2011, Senator Hansen questioned, “If you receive a permit, would you build a second span?” Moroun responded, “We will start the next day.”